

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LOME
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248814

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, PBOR, TO, GH, DM

SUBJECT:DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE
AND TOGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTER

1. TOGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTER EDEM KODJO CALLED ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MOOSE ON SEPTEMBER 30. AF/W SMITH AND KIRKPATRICK
AND AMBASSADOR KEKEH WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. KODJO'S REMARKS CENTERED ON TOGO'S RELATIONS WITH ITS
NEIGHBORS. HE STATED THAT RELATIONS WITH BENIN HAD IM-
PROVED SINCE THE CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING A NUMBER OF MONTHS
AGO. HE NOTED THAT BENIN'S MARXIST IDEOLOGY MIGHT BE
SUITED TO THAT COUNTRY EVEN THOUGH TOGO DID NOT WANT SUCH
AN IDEOLOGY. HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE QUESTION OF
BENIN ACCUSING TOGO OF COMPLICITY IN THE JANUARY MERCENARY
RAID AT COTONOU AIRPORT HAD BEEN SETTLED. HE EMPHASIZED
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THAT TOGOLESE PRESIDENT EYADEMA WAS CONCERNED THAT BENIN
NOT ONLY HAD A RADICAL IDEOLOGY BUT WAS RECEIVING MILITARY
ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED HAVING
BEEN INFORMED OF OUR ARMS RESTRAINT POLICY.

3. TURNING TO TOGO'S CLAIMS TO A PORTION OF GHANA WEST OF
THE VOLTA RIVER, KODJO SAID HE WAS ONLY RAISING THE MATTER

BECAUSE OF RECENT ACCUSATIONS BY GHANAIA BORDER GUARD

COMMANDER GENERAL UTUKA THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TOGO WAS ORGANIZING SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES TO DESTROY GHANA'S ECONOMY AND SPONSORING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN WESTERN GHANA. HE SAID THAT EYADEMA HAD ASKED HIM TO COMMUNICATE TWO POINTS. FIRST, THERE WAS SMUGGLING BECAUSE THE BORDER WAS NOT CONTROLLABLE BUT TOGO WAS NOT BEHIND IT. TOGO'S CURRENCY IS HARD BECAUSE IT IS TIED TO THE FRENCH FRANC WHILE GHANA'S CURRENCY IS WORTHLESS. GHANAIAANS SMUGGLE GOODS, INCLUDING COCOA, INTO TOGO TO GET HARD CURRENCY AND TOGOLESE EFFORTS TO STOP THIS PRACTICE HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

4. SECOND, KODJO EXPLAINED THAT THE DISPUTE OVER WESTERN GHANA HAD BEEN AN ACTIVE MATTER SINCE 1914 WHEN THE FRENCH AND BRITISH ATTACKED AND DIVIDED GERMAN TOGOLAND AND LATER ADMINISTERED THEIR PARTS OF TOGO UNDER A LEAGUE OF NATIONS MANDATE. HE EXPLAINED TOGO'S CRITICISMS OF THE 1956 PLEBISCITE WHICH GAVE BRITISH TOGO TO GHANA. HE NOTED THAT TOGO'S POSITION WAS FULLY EXPLAINED IN A BROCHURE, WHICH HE LEFT WITH MOOSE. HE ALSO GAVE MOOSE AN OLD GERMAN MAP OF TOGOLAND, EXPLAINING THAT THE PART OF GERMAN TOGOLAND OCCUPIED BY THE FRENCH WAS NOW THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO AND THAT THAT PART OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH WAS NOW PART OF GHANA. HE STATED THAT IT WAS NOT TOGO'S FAULT THAT PEOPLE WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE DIVISION OF THE EWE
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TRIBE BETWEEN TOGO AND GHANA. TOGO WAS NOT SPONSORING SUBVERSION IN GHANA AND WISHED TO SETTLE THE MATTER PEACEFULLY. HE NOTED THAT TOGO SUPPORTS THE OAU PRINCIPLE OF THE INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN FRONTIERS. TOGO'S POSITION IS THAT ITS FRONTIERS ARE THOSE OF FORMER GERMAN TOGO AND NOT OF FRENCH TOGO.

5. MOOSE REPLIED THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT TOGO WISHED A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THIS CONFLICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH OAU PRINCIPLES. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE OAU WOULD BE THE PROPER FRAMEWORK IN WHICH TO CONSIDER THIS QUESTION. HE ADDED THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE OAU PRINCIPLE OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITHIN FRONTIERS EXISTING AT THE TIME OF INDEPENDENCE. MOOSE ADDED THAT WE THOUGHT THERE WAS TOO MUCH OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA AT PRESENT. WE SHARE TOGO'S CONCERNS OVER SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITY.

6. IN RESPONSE TO MOOSE'S INQUIRY ABOUT WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (CEAO) DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS, KODJO REPLIED THAT CEAO MEMBERS HAD SIGNED A NON-AGRESSION PACT WITH WHICH TOGO WAS ASSOCIATED AS A NON-MEMBER. KODJO

SAID THAT THERE WERE NO COMMON MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS AND THAT FRANCE WAS NOT INVOLVED.

7. MOOSE NOTED THAT WE WERE PLEASED TO HEAR REPORTS FROM AMBASSADOR PALMER OF TOGO'S POSITIVE RESPONSE TO OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY INCLUDING RELEASE OF PRISONERS AND AN INVITATION TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO VISIT TOGO. MOOSE AFFIRMED THE COMMITMENT OF SECRETARY VANCE AND PRESIDENT CARTER TO HUMAN RIGHTS. HE NOTED THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN AFRICA BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS A CHALLENGE TO WESTERN HUMAN RIGHTS VALUES. KODJO REPLIED THAT MANY AFRICAN LEADERS HOPED FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY EVEN THOUGH THEY SOMETIMES FIND IT EASIER NOT TO OBSERVE HUMAN RIGHTS. KODJO STATED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD NOT INVOLVE INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK IN WHICH ALL NATIONS WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBSERVING HUMAN RIGHTS. MOOSE RESPONDED THAT WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE EXTENT TO WHICH ONE NATION CAN COMMENT ON THE INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF ANOTHER IS OPEN TO INTERPRETATION. WE RESPECT THE MULTILATERAL APPROACH IN THEORY BUT FIND THAT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE RELUCTANT TO TAKE A STAND ON SUCH ISSUES.

8. AT THE CLOSE OF THE CONVERSATION KODJO STATED THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA WISHED TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. MOOSE RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS REQUEST. WE PLAN ABOUT A YEAR AHEAD OF TIME. AMBASSADOR KEKEH REMARKED THAT HE HAD RAISED THE SAME ISSUE WITH FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT RECEIVE EYADEMA BECAUSE OF THE CROWDED BICENTENNIAL VISITS SCHEDULE.

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